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Lunch each day was served in a private dining-room at the hotel and these luncheons were made convention affairs giving the delegates opportunity for informal conferences and better acquaintance. In the way of social entertainments, teas were given the delegates by Mrs. William M. Ritter and Mrs. Christian Hemmick, and on the second afternoon the delegates were invited to a garden party at the Octagon, the headquarters of the American Institute of Architects and the home of the Federation.

The convention as a whole was both educational and inspiring. It is only fair to note, however, in this particular, that those in attendance contributed quite as much to the result as did the program, despite its excellence. To find so many from all parts of the United States so deeply interested in the development and progress of art was in itself both a revelation and an impetus, and that from so widespread an interest large and beneficial results will accrue can not be doubted. The majority of the papers and addresses will be published during the coming year in *THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE OF ART*.

### THE DINNER

The convention was fittingly concluded on the evening of the 19th by a dinner attended by 330 persons, at which special stress was laid upon the value of The Arts. Mr. Robert W. de Forest presided and the speakers were: Mr. Cass Gilbert, Mr. William M. Chase, Mr. Herbert Adams, Mr. Alfred Noyes and Mr. Horatio Parker.

In speaking of architecture, Mr. Cass Gilbert emphasized the fact that design should have a very definite relation to the usage of the building. "Architecture," he said, "is a form of expression—it is a language. I think we should use its fullest development, its highest ideals of expression, its scholarly qualities to express our needs today." He reminded his hearers that architecture is the great recorder of history and that in just so far as what we do is serious, definite, purposeful and right, will the results be splendid.

Mr. William M. Chase, speaking for painting, declared himself "a member of the most magnificent profession that the world knows," calling to mind pictures by

the great masters in the famous museums. He insisted, however, that all good pictures are well made—thoroughly well made—and urged strongly the acceptance of this conviction, which to a great extent disposes of the works of the so-called modernist. Mr. Chase expressed himself of the belief that the only way to know art was to see it, but he wisely recommended that one should not force a work upon oneself, but rather accept as much as one finds in it, gradually acquiring taste and discrimination. The motto, he said, which he would have carved deeply in stone over the door of every great museum was "These works are for your pleasure and not for your criticism."

Speaking of sculpture, Mr. Herbert Adams deplored the tendency of the average citizen or citizens' committee to erect portrait statues as public monuments and to have such monuments placed conspicuously regardless of suitability of site. "My feeling is," he said, "that a monument should be something more than an artistic representation of a man in an ugly suit of clothes." "In art as in dress," Mr. Adams said, "America has always been influenced by the fashions of Europe. The question now is, will those in Europe at the close of this great war be inspired by nobler visions, and will there be a nobler form of expression or will the destructive influences of warfare have a blighting effect upon Europe for a generation to come."

Mr. Alfred Noyes, referring to the technique of poetry, echoed what Mr. Chase had said about painting and declared that the tendency to disregard workmanship has in late years led our makers of literature into a method of evading difficulties instead of conquering them. "It has led us," he said, "into free verse and all the other devices for admitting the mediocre artist into the Olympian circles." Touching upon the spiritual, he said, "The whole business of poetry is to set the temporal in relation to the eternal." "Modern realism," he added "is supposed to be getting down to the facts of life, whereas, instead it is merely getting down to the superficial facts of death." "Shakespeare in his tragedies," he declared, "asserted the supremacy of the individual soul over the physical universe." "Is it not an inspiring thought," he asked his audience, "that the strongest link between

the English speaking people of the world is the poet who once held horses' heads outside of the theatres in London?" In conclusion, Mr. Noyes recited his poem, "The Lord of Misrule," and in response to eager requests gave also his poem entitled, "Creation."

"Music," said Mr. Horatio Parker, "is the youngest of the arts and is, I think, the most democratic of them all."

"Progress in art is always most difficult," he affirmed, "in a democracy," which he defined as "a dead level of the average." "Progress is made," he insisted, "by individuals and individuals are largely the result of their environment." Therefore, if we are to have better music in America, we must have more music and must encourage composers. "I think," said Mr. Parker, "that the time has come for us to do our American part intelligently, generously and effectively in the great human fight against dullness and against the tyranny of stogy, necessary and inevitable things—not against the things but against the tyranny of them, and thereby open an escape for many of us into the world of spiritual things where I believe music is well fitted to guide us."

#### RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS

##### ADOPTION OF PARK COMMISSION PLAN

*Whereas*, the beauty of Washington, the Federal Capital, and its development on systematic and model lines, are matters of importance to the whole nation.

*Therefore, be it resolved:* That the American Federation of Arts urge upon Congress the enactment of a law adopting the plans prepared by the Park Commission, known as "The Washington Plan," as the plan for the future development of the city of Washington, and

*Be it further resolved:* That each of the 223 Chapters of the Federation, and individual members of the organization urge upon the President, and the Senators, and the Representatives of their respective states, that they reconsider the location of the Government Power Plant, in accordance with joint Resolution No. 92, presented by

Senator Francis G. Newlands, said location being out of harmony with the said "Washington Plan."

##### MEMORIALS IN WASHINGTON

*Resolved:* That the American Federation of Arts urge upon the National Commission of Fine Arts the consideration of the subject of memorials in Washington, both those existing and also those that properly might be erected; with the purpose of correcting the lack of historical perspective, and also of suggesting methods whereby the best artistic results may be obtained.

*And be it further resolved:* That the President of the American Federation of Arts be, and is hereby, authorized to form a committee to cooperate with the Commission in this important work. Such Committee to include one historian, one sculptor, one painter, one architect and one landscape architect; and to report at the next Annual Convention of the Federation.

##### HEIGHT OF BUILDINGS IN WASHINGTON

*Whereas*, The City of Washington has fortunately been protected by Congressional Enactment from such extreme monstrosities in the line of high buildings as are to be found in some other cities, and

*Whereas*, On the other hand, the existing law manifestly fails to protect important parts of the city from invasion by structures of a height and form wholly discordant with the character of the district in which they are built, seriously injurious to the public buildings and parks, and to the private buildings of moderate height in their vicinity, and rapidly tending to destroy that orderly and harmonious development upon which the highest beauty and usefulness of the city depend; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the American Federation of Arts urge upon Congress the importance of strengthening and improving the law which controls the heights of buildings, so as to establish a zoning system in the District of Columbia, and thus make it a thoroughly effective instrument of its admirable purpose.

##### CITY PLANNING

*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors be requested to consider the possibility of publishing a special pamphlet, fully illus-